Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of communicating a message in a multimodal SMS communication, the method comprising:

creating [[the]] a voice message by recording said voice message on a multimodal platform;

generating an SMS message containing a link, which when activated allows a recipient to retrieve the voice message;

assigning a unique message identifier to the [[SMS]] voice message, wherein the message identifier comprises a user identifier combined with a network identifier, wherein the message identifier is assigned by a network pool, and wherein the unique message identifier is associated with the recipient;

adding the message identifier to the SMS message;

storing the message identifier with the SMS message; and

transmitting the SMS message to the recipient via a connection that comprises a wireless network for notifying said recipient of said voice message and/or for providing said link to said recipient;

wherein the message contains audio, text, or both audio and text.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: accessing the SMS message by activating the link.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: the recipient providing an outgoing SMS message in reply to the SMS message by accessing the link.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the outgoing SMS message is intercepted by an SMS center if the recipient is part of a defined subset of recipients.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the audio message is a voice mail message and wherein the link allows access to the voice mail message.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the message contains audio and wherein the step of creating the message comprises: calling an assigned network number; and speaking the desired message.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the SMS message comprises: sending the SMS message to a virtual service identifier number, wherein the SMS message is directed to a multimodal platform.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the multimodal platform associates the virtual service identifier number with the recipient.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the SMS message comprises: an SMS center intercepting the SMS message sent to the recipient if the recipient is part of a defined subset of recipients.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the SMS message is converted into a multimodal SMS message.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: filtering the SMS message to determine if the sender of the text SMS message is a subscriber to a multimodal SMS service.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein a sender of the SMS message is a subscriber to a network carrier responsible for sending and delivering the message.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: converting the SMS message to a multimedia message, comprising dividing the text message into multimedia components.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: adding a multimodal SMS link to a non-text portion of the message, if the outgoing message is directed to an instant message platform.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the SMS message is a message from a voice message system.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: retrieving the SMS message by one of (i) activating the link and (ii) calling an access number, wherein the retrieval of the SMS message may result in a predetermined charge to the recipient.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to perform a method of communicating a message in a multimodal SMS communication, the method comprising:

creating [[the]] a voice message by recording said voice message on one or more of a multimodal platform and an associated speech server;

generating an SMS message containing a link, which when activated allows a recipient to retrieve the voice message;

assigning a unique message identifier to the SMS message, wherein the message identifier comprises a user identifier combined with a network identifier, wherein

the message identifier is assigned by a network pool, and wherein the unique message identifier is associated with the recipient;

adding the message identifier to the SMS message;

storing the message identifier with the SMS message; and

transmitting the SMS message to the recipient via a connection that comprises a wireless network for notifying said recipient of said voice message and/or for providing said link to said recipient;

wherein the message may contain audio, text, or both audio and text.

Claim 19 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises: accessing the SMS message by activating the link.

Claim 20 (canceled).